

Boston, Massachusetts, October 1861.

Dear friend,

The undersigned, a Committee of the Managers of the 28th Annual Anti-Slavery Subscription Anniversary, to be held in the city of Boston in January next, address you in behalf of that occasion, and of the Cause which it has been, for so many years, privileged to aid; it having devolved, this year, upon us to discharge the duty which has been heretofore performed so efficiently and with so much success by our beloved co-adjutor Mrs. Maria Weston Chapman.

Notwithstanding the encouraging progress of anti-Slavery principles, our Cause cannot yet safely dispense with so important an agency as this annual occasion has ever been. We feel, indeed, a strong necessity laid upon us to continue it. It is true that the Nation is aroused as never before, and that a more intelligent perception exists than at any previous time of the real character of Slavery, and of the certain destruction it will bring upon this people, if itself suffered to live. But this is very far from being the universal conviction, nor has the Government any apparent purpose, as yet, of seizing the opportunity, which Providence is affording us, to bring this monstrous wrong and curse of Slavery to an end. We see, therefore, that the anti-slavery work is by no means yet done, and that we must not yet abandon an instrumentality which has commended itself to all friends of the Cause, for upwards of a quarter of a century, as alike necessary and efficient.

At this late day, and in this momentous crisis of our Country, when the mighty question of Liberty or Slavery for Man hangs in doubtful scale, in the anxious sight of all lovers of Justice and Humanity, it cannot ~~be~~ necessary that we should re-state to you our cause, - its meaning, spirit, purpose, - or vindicate its necessity and its beneficent results. It is enough that we, American abolitionists of a Thirty Years' moral war, present it to you, its long-tried friends and supporters in the Old World, as the same cause in whose behalf you have laboured through so many years and so many discouragements; our methods of operation, too, and the weapons of our warfare the same they have ever been. Our trust is in the justice and righteousness of our cause. Our hope for victory is solely in God. In the might of His truth we labour, and in that strength shall we conquer.

But our Country is plunged in Civil War, - the result of the ambition and desperation of the Slaveholding States. Our People and Government have been forced into a contest which they have long and ever sought to avoid, often by conceptions of a most humiliating nature. Now they seek to save the Government, with whatever is left of freedom and justice amongst us, from the rebel and murderous assaults of men who design to establish in this Western world a Slaveholding Empire of the most unmitigated despotism. We cannot fail to recognise in this very antagonistic position strong proof that the spirit of liberty, awakened and educated by the abolitionists, has spread wide and deep in the Northern heart,

The Executive Committee of the American Antislavery Society

have already set on foot a Petition to Congress, for signature by the people, wherein that body, to assemble early in December, "is urgently implored to lose no time in enacting, under the war power, the total abolition of Slavery throughout the country — liberating unconditionally the slaves of all who are rebels, and, while not recognizing the right of property in man, allowing for the emancipated slaves of such as are loyal to the Government a fair pecuniary award, in order to facilitate an amicable adjustment of difficulties; and thus to bring the war to a speedy and beneficent termination, and indissolubly to unite all sections and all interests of the country upon the enduring basis of universal freedom."

This is our immediate work. We regard the proposed measure as the only basis of a true and honourable peace; and are confident that this policy will accomplish the highest good and the enduring prosperity alike of North and South, of freeman and of slave; that it will save the lives of thousands now, lift up millions into the possession of their divine birthright, change their tears and groans into songs of thanksgiving, and command for our whole land the favour and blessing of Him, under whose righteous judgments we are now deservedly suffering. Friends, help us to accomplish these glorious ends. Help us, as all lovers of justice and freedom, the world over, may most effectually do, to banish the foul fiend Slavery from our land! And remembering our recorded vows in Liberty's service, let us never turn back from her holy work until all nations shall rejoice together in the possession of this gift of Heaven.

Your friendly offerings in aid of the Antislavery Cause in this country may be sent to either of the undersigned, at the Anti-Slavery office, Room No. 6, 221 Washington street, Boston.

N.B. As our indefatigable fellow-labourer, Mrs. Maria W. Chapman,

may have already addressed you on the subject of
funds for our cause, you will consider this, in that
case, but a repetition of the same appeals.